

Stephanie Martin

Step by step
a wedding procession

Commissioned by Karri Yano to honour our friend Jennifer Griesbach.

Jennifer performed this music to accompany Karri's wedding procession
at the Japanese Cultural Centre, Toronto, August 24, 2024.

Karri's request that some aspect of the piece involve the number 3,
(to symbolize the three of us and our friendship) is reflected in the
key signature of three flats. 'Step by step' represents not only the
physical act of walking down the aisle, but the small steps forward that create
relationships. The music reflects this in the steady step-wise motion of the
bass line, and takes inspiration not only from Bach's keyboard preludes, but also
Debussy's 'Gradus ad Parnassum', where small steps lead
to the home of the Muses.

Step by step

*A procession for Karri's wedding,
commisisoned to honour her friend Jennifer*

Stephanie Martin, 2024

Moderato ♩=100

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score is divided into five systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 5, 10, 15, 20) and an 8-measure repeat sign. The first system includes a dynamic marking of *p* and a *g^{ua}* marking above the staff. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line uses whole notes. The piece concludes with a final bass note in the fifth system.

25

mf

30

35

40

mp

45

broadening...

f

50

55

Musical score for measures 55-59. The piece is in a minor key (three flats) and 3/4 time. The right hand plays chords and arpeggiated figures, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 59 ends with a fermata over the final chord.

60

Musical score for measures 60-64. The right hand features more complex chordal textures and melodic lines, including a chromatic ascent in measure 62. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment.

65

Musical score for measures 65-69. The right hand has a more active melodic line. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed above the right hand in measure 67. The left hand accompaniment remains consistent.

70

Musical score for measures 70-74. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the right hand in measure 71. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed below the right hand in measure 73. The right hand has a melodic line with some grace notes.

75

Musical score for measures 75-79. A *rit.* marking is placed above the right hand in measure 75. A dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) is placed below the right hand in measure 78. The right hand features a melodic line with a long slur over measures 76-78, ending with a fermata. The left hand accompaniment concludes with a final chord.